



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

August 19 2009 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final August 19, 2009

Present: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney, Vice Chair Vita Cohen, Chair Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney

Absent: Stacy Davison, Marlissa Briggett, Jorge Loayza, Judson Pierce

Guest: Officer James Smith, Arlington Police Department

Open Forum – Officer James Smith joined our meeting tonight to discuss a report he distributed to the commissioners regarding a graffiti incident at Thorndike Field and explained how the APD and DPW handled this incident. He also related a couple other complaints that the department is working on, but because these cases are currently classified as criminal cases, he could not give a full report to the commission until the investigations are complete. He will keep the commission informed as to their progress. He also spoke of the police presence at the elementary and middle schools and how this program is still a work in progress.

Review of July Minutes – Motion was made and approved to accept the July minutes – with two abstentions.

Networks and Coalitions –
MAHRC – nothing to report this month.

Incidents and Complaints –
(refer to Open Forum)

Subcommittee Reports –
Dialogues

Marriage Equality Dialogue – the Dialogue entitled: “*Five Years of Legalized Gay Marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*,” is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th at Robbins House. A postcard mailing will be done by September 1st. Commissioner Pierce is working on publicity to be sent to the Arlington Advocate, as well as local calendars and cable.

Schools – Commission Chair Minton will contact the Superintendent of the Arlington Schools and extend an invitation for her to meet with the Commission in October.

Policies and Procedures – Vice Chair Cohen noted that the Chair and Vice Chair, in that order, are the responsible respondents to all press relations.

Rapid Response/Publicity – the update of information is still a work in progress

Other Business –

Town Meeting Invocation Incident – further discussion regarding the sectarian nature of the invocation to open Town Meetings was tabled.

Town Day – Commissioner Carney is working on plans for Town Day and will be in touch with other commissioners by September 1st.

Human Rights Commission Vacancy – follow up to clarify AHRC vacancy – there has been no response to the letter sent to Town Moderator, Attorney John Leone, on February 4, 2009, requesting him to seek a candidate to replace Commissioner Christine Deshler. A second request was mailed September 9th.

Motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Submitted by:
Marylynn Carnell
Staff Assistant